- Focus on elementary Education of satisfactory quality with emphasis on education for life;
- Bridge all gender and social category gaps at primary stage by 2007 and at elementary education level by 2010;
- Universal retention by 2010.

Vacancies in IGNOU

395. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vacancies earmarked for SC, ST and OBC should be filled up within stipulated time;

(b) whether concerned authorities of Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi had advertised some Group 'C' posts in the reserved category of SC, ST and OBC in Employment News, dated 9—15 February, 2002;

(c) if so, why selection formalities could not be completed as yet; and

(d) latest action contemplated in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. According to the information furnished by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), the University have advertised the posts of Stenographer, Junior-Assistant-cum Typist and Computer Operator Grade II for Scheduled Castes/Tribes and Other Backward Classes. The recruitment process is in progress.

Some delay took place in filling up vacancies as the IGNOU authorities were reassessing the needs for posts in view of Government of India instructions to reduce the number of posts in the university.

Fund for Vedic Study

396. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allocated Rs. 75 crore for vedic study in primary schools; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Scholarships for higher education

†397. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that arrangements have been made to provide scholarships and bank loans for getting higher education from the institutions affiliated with the Ministry of Human Resource Development during the recent years;

(b) if so, number of students provided with the scholarships and bank loans during the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002; and

(c) number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students amongst the said beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Ministry of Human Resource Development does not give affiliation to the educational institutions. Scholarships to students in educational institutions are given by various sources including Central and State Governments and loans are advanced by banks directly to the students.

(b) and (c) No Central data is maintained in this regard.

Revamping higher education

398. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.